LEFT-HANDED GENEROSITY.

A year or two ago a Scotch firm of shipbuilders established what was widely noticed at the time as a "generous" scheme of awards to the workmen in their employ who should invent or introduce any new machine or hand tool, or improve any existing tool, or make any change of means or methods calculated to improve or cheapen the work of their shipyard. The policy was good, though, if our memory serves, it was characterized by shrewdness rather than generosity, since the granting of the award was conditioned upon the surrender by the inventor to the company of the right to use the invention without further charge. The plan seems to have worked well for the company, who "have been encouraged to amend the scheme" in two important particulars. They now announce that should an invention or improvement be worthy of a greater reward than the sum ($50) originally fixed, the firm will either grant a higher sum, or, should the invention be considered worthy of being protected by patent, pay the inventor $50 and assist him pecuniarily in disposing of his patent or in completing it, at the same time reserving to the firm the right of using such invention themselves free from the payment of any royalty for patent rights.

These offers still keep well within the bounds of prudence, and indicate a sharp outlook for the main chance. The firm enjoy in consequence the pleasure of being generally lauded for generosity. We shall not be surprised if they discover in time that it will pay them to still further encourage the inventive faculty and habit among their workmen, if not by assisting them to take out patents for their inventions, at least without reserving any right of use without payment of royalty. Assistance so rendered might fairly be accredited to generosity; and yet, from a strictly selfish point of view, the generosity would pay handsomely, for the habit of constantly seeking better and more economical methods of working could not fail to make any workman more valuable to his employer, even if it did not lead him to invent anything worth patenting.—*Scientific American.*

THE LUCKY ESCAPE.

On the night of October 14th, 1651, a tall swarthy young man, with a companion, slipped into the George Inn, Brighton (Eng.) and said he would wait to meet a wayfaring acquaintance. In earlier days the host had been employed in one of the London palaces, and he recognized in his seedy visitor Prince Charles, son of the monarch who, more than two years before, had been beheaded at Whitehall. After the battle of Worcester the young king had experienced many adventures and worn many disguises—there was a price upon his head; but the innkeeper, either from loyalty or discretion, did not offer to molest the fugitive or his companion. The captain of a collier, Nicholas Tettersell, then appeared, and took Charles and his companion, who was the Earl of Rochester, on board his vessel and landed them in France, for which service many things were promised. The Restoration came, but none of the gifts and Tettersell therefore sailed into the Thames and moored off Whitehall, where his dingy bark attracted the attention of the king, who, being thus reminded, gave the captain a ring, a perpetual annuity of £100 a year, and took the collier into the navy under the name of the Lucky Escape.

A COLORADO CURIOSITY.

In Colorado is a ten-acre field, which is no more nor less than a subterranean lake covered with soil about eighteen inches deep. On the soil is cultivated a field of corn, which produces thirty bushels to the acre. If any one will take the trouble to dig a hole the depth of a spade handle, he will find it to fill with water, and by using a hook and line, fish four or five inches long may be caught. The fish have neither scales nor eyes, and are perch-like in shape. The ground is a black marl in nature, and in all probability was at one time an open body of water, on which accumulated vegetable matter, which has been increased from time to time, until now it has a crust sufficiently strong and rich to produce fine corn, although it has to be cultivated by hand, as it is not strong enough to bear the weight of a horse. While harvesting, the hands catch great strings of fish by making a hole through the earth. A person rising on his heel and coming down suddenly, can see the growing corn shake all around him. Anyone having sufficient strength to drive a rail through the crust will find, on releasing it, that it will disappear altogether.

A WHOLE LIFE SPENT IN A POOR-HOUSE.

The poor-house of Orange county, N. Y., was established in 1830. The first inmates were John Foster and wife, with a female child a few months old. The parents both died in the poor-house. The child has been a county charge ever since. During the fifty-one years of her life she has never been off the grounds of the county house. She is a brisk smart woman, and has been a servant in the families of the different superintendents for forty years. She has no more idea of the outside world than a year old child.

Clergymen living along the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, can ride for half fare.

A London woman advertises to exchange her engagement ring for a black fur cape.

The Pittsburg Grand Jury describes the city pawnbrokers' shops as a "market for thieves."

The Dutch usually carry small flagons of Eau de Cologne in their pockets. It is used everywhere, and at all times.

Daniel Webster's name stands on a Congregational church record in New Hampshire as admitted September 13, 1807.

A marriage license in Maryland costs the rather steep figure of $4.50, but the Senate has voted down a bill reducing the tariff.

There is a great temperance movement in Arkansas. Thousands have taken the pledge, and many liquor saloons are closed. Women have done most of the work.

Florida papers say that the brown or rusty orange is much the sweetest, and can be kept longer than the bright fruit, but it will not sell at the North for more than half the price of fair fruit.

Frederick Newberg, now in jail for stealing from the Ohio Treasury Department, in which he was employed, went to Cincinnati a short time before his exposure, and plunged into a round of the wildest and costliest dissipation. To those who expressed wonder at his lavish expenditure, he said that he had won one thousand five hundred dollars at faro, and desired to get rid of it immediately. The money was really his final stealing, and the spree was a reckless attempt to have all the fun possible before the inevitable detection and arrest.

Energy will do everything that can be done in the world; and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities, will make a two-legged animal a man without it.—*Goethe.*

Abuse is the argument of a bad heart—calm reasoning is the logic of a good heart.

Conscience is the red flag that warns us to avoid wrong doing.

A recluse is often nothing but a wreck loose from society.

"Money is the root of all evil," and most of us are digging after the root.—*Detroit Chief.*

When a drama distribution waters its stock only a few are invited to the back seat.—*Wit and Wisdom.*

Some of the plays now on the stage are sick enough to make a Buffalo Bill.—*Wit and Wisdom.*

To remove fat. A great many recipes have been given, but the right chest way is to cultivate your grease man.

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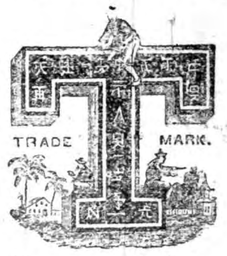

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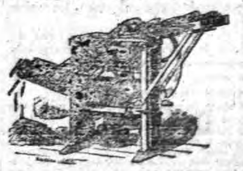

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